

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 20px;"></div>	25X1
SUBJECT	WOP Coastal Craft Group in Swinoujscie and Szczecin Sound	DATE DISTR.	20 June 1955	
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WOP Coastal Craft Group.

1. The duties of the Coastal Craft Group of WOP (The Military Border Guard) included the patrol of Szczecin (Stettin) Sound (Zalew Szczecinski), the channel, the River Oder, and the patrol of the coast line from Swinoujscie (Swinemünde) to Kolobrzeg (Kolberg). Craft of the group patrolled near the coast during the day and up to two to three miles out to sea during the night. Patrols were usually seven days at sea. If several vessels were on patrol at one time, one vessel was stationed alongside the quay. Such security measures were taken during state holidays or if information had been received of a possible landing or escape. In 1952 during the Western Fleet exercises in the Baltic, similar precautions were taken.

Coastal Patrol.

2. The main task of the Coastal Craft Group of WOP along the coast was to prevent escapes from Poland or the landing of persons from abroad. During the summer in particular the patrol vessels kept in the vicinity of Miedzyzdroje (Misdroy) because of the crowds of holiday makers. To avoid the possibility of meeting passing ships, no one was allowed to sail or swim far out. These ships were also watched to prevent anyone's coming ashore.
3. Fishing vessels for the fishing grounds had to have special passes. Crews had to report to the PKRR (Fishing Traffic Control Post - Placowka Kontroli Ruchu Rybackiego) immediately before sailing. At the PKRR the identities of the crew were checked by the WOP and the contents of the boat were examined. The hour of sailing and the expected time of return were entered on the pass. Should the vessel not have returned at the stated time, the PKRR alerted the WOP Coastal Craft Group Command which sent out a patrol boat to the fishing grounds to rescue or pursue the missing vessel.
4. At night the patrol often stood by without lights, watching the sea and coast in

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all directions. The craft were generally equipped with W/T and reported every two hours to the Group Command.. Craft without W/T sailed only on short patrols.

Patrol of Szczecin Sound and Channel.

5. A PKRR was stationed at Nowe Warpno (Neuwarp-N53-44, E14-18). Its duties consisted of controlling the fishing craft going into Szczecin Bay. The duties of the WOP Coastal Craft Group in Szczecin Bay and channel were to prevent any contact between Polish and German fishermen and to control ships sailing through Szczecin Sound. If the water was rough the vessel on patrol did not enter Szczecin Sound but remained in the channel.
6. During the day the patrol kept near the WOP Observation Post which was at the entrance to the bay from the channel and watched the bay through field-glasses. At night, however, the patrol sailed up to the frontier buoys in the bay, anchored there and switched off its lights. It then kept watch to prevent anyone passing the frontier line marked by the buoys.
7. The WOP Land Control Posts were stationed from Szczecin along the River Oder and the channel, and they were supplied with lists of the estimated times of the passing of ships. These posts were interconnected by telephone and each post immediately informed the next one about any ship which had passed. In this way every post knew about an approaching ship. In case of any discrepancy the post alerted the WOP Coastal Craft Group. As the WOP Control Posts were near the navigational bearing lights, the WOP Observation Post could recognize the ship concerned. The normal green and red lights marked the entrance to the channel from the sound.
8. The control of the River Oder was carried out by a special detachment of the WOP Coastal Craft Group at Gryfino (Greifenhagen).

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